

**657—8.19 (124,126,155A) Manner of issuance of a prescription drug or medication order.** A prescription drug order or medication order may be transmitted from a prescriber or a prescriber's agent to a pharmacy in written form, orally including telephone voice communication, by facsimile transmission as provided in rule 657—21.9(124,155A), or by electronic transmission in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. Any prescription drug order or medication order provided to a patient in written or printed form shall include the original, handwritten signature of the prescriber except as provided in rule 657—21.7(124,155A).

**8.19(1) Requirements for a prescription.** A valid prescription drug order shall be based on a valid patient-prescriber relationship.

*a. Written, electronic, or facsimile prescription.* In addition to the electronic prescription application and pharmacy prescription application requirements of this rule, a written, electronic, or facsimile prescription shall include:

- (1) The date issued.
- (2) The name and address of the patient.
- (3) The name, strength, and quantity of the drug or device prescribed.
- (4) The name and address of the prescriber and, if the prescription is for a controlled substance, the prescriber's DEA registration number.
- (5) The written or electronic signature of the prescriber.

*b. Written prescription.* In addition to the requirements of paragraph 8.19(1)"a," a written prescription shall be manually signed, with ink or indelible pencil, by the prescriber. The requirement for manual signature shall not apply when an electronically prepared and signed prescription for a noncontrolled substance is printed on security paper as provided in 657—paragraph 21.7(3)"b."

*c. Facsimile prescription.* In addition to the requirements of paragraph 8.19(1)"a," a prescription transmitted via facsimile shall include:

- (1) The identification number of the facsimile machine used to transmit the prescription to the pharmacy.
- (2) The time and date of transmission of the prescription.
- (3) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the pharmacy to which the prescription is being transmitted.
- (4) If the prescription is for a controlled substance and in compliance with DEA regulations, the manual signature of the prescriber.

*d. Electronic prescription.* In addition to the requirements of paragraph 8.19(1)"a," an electronically prepared prescription for a controlled or noncontrolled prescription drug or device that is electronically transmitted to a pharmacy shall include the prescriber's electronic signature.

(1) An electronically prepared prescription for a controlled substance that is printed out or faxed by the prescriber or the prescriber's agent shall be manually signed by the prescriber.

(2) The prescriber shall ensure that the electronic prescription application used to prepare and transmit the electronic prescription complies with applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations regarding electronic prescriptions.

(3) The prescriber or the prescriber's agent shall provide verbal verification of an electronic prescription upon the request of the pharmacy.

**8.19(2) Verification.** The pharmacist shall exercise professional judgment regarding the accuracy, validity, and authenticity of any prescription drug order or medication order consistent with federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. In exercising professional judgment, the prescribing practitioner and the pharmacist shall take adequate measures to guard against the diversion of prescription drugs and controlled substances through prescription forgeries.

**8.19(3) Transmitting agent.** The prescribing practitioner may authorize an agent to transmit to the pharmacy a prescription drug order or medication order orally, by facsimile transmission, or by electronic

transmission provided that the first and last names and title of the transmitting agent are included in the order.

*a. New order.* A new written or electronically prepared and transmitted prescription drug or medication order shall be manually or electronically signed by the prescriber. If transmitted by the prescriber's agent, the first and last names and title of the transmitting agent shall be included in the order. If the prescription is for a controlled substance and is written or printed from an electronic prescription application, the prescription shall be manually signed by the prescriber prior to delivery of the prescription to the patient or prior to facsimile transmission of the prescription to the pharmacy. An electronically prepared prescription shall not be electronically transmitted to the pharmacy if the prescription has been printed prior to the electronic transmission. An electronically prepared and electronically transmitted prescription that is printed following the electronic transmission shall be clearly labeled as a copy, not valid for dispensing.

*b. Refill order or renewal order.* An authorization to refill a prescription drug or medication order, or to renew or continue an existing drug therapy, may be transmitted to a pharmacist through oral communication, in writing, by facsimile transmission, or by electronic transmission initiated by or directed by the prescriber.

(1) If the transmission is completed by the prescriber's agent and the first and last names and title of the transmitting agent are included in the order, the prescriber's signature is not required on the fax or alternate electronic transmission.

(2) If the order differs in any manner from the original order, such as a change of the drug strength, dosage form, or directions for use, the prescriber shall sign the order as provided by paragraph 8.19(3) "a."

**8.19(4) Receiving agent.** Regardless of the means of transmission to a pharmacy, only a pharmacist, a pharmacist-intern, or a certified pharmacy technician shall be authorized to receive a new prescription drug or medication order from a practitioner or the practitioner's agent. In addition to a pharmacist, a pharmacist-intern, and a certified pharmacy technician, a technician trainee or an uncertified pharmacy technician may receive a refill or renewal order from a practitioner or the practitioner's agent if the technician's supervising pharmacist has authorized that function.

**8.19(5) Legitimate purpose.** The pharmacist shall ensure that the prescription drug or medication order, regardless of the means of transmission, has been issued for a legitimate medical purpose by an authorized practitioner acting in the usual course of the practitioner's professional practice. A pharmacist shall not dispense a prescription drug if the pharmacist knows or should have known that the prescription was issued solely on the basis of an Internet-based questionnaire, an Internet-based consultation, or a telephonic consultation and without a valid preexisting patient-practitioner relationship.

**8.19(6) Refills.** A refill is one or more dispensings of a prescription drug or device that result in the patient's receipt of the quantity authorized by the prescriber for a single fill as indicated on the prescription drug order.

*a. Noncontrolled prescription drug or device.* A prescription for a prescription drug or device that is not a controlled substance may authorize no more than 12 refills within 18 months following the date on which the prescription is issued.

*b. Controlled substance.* A prescription for a Schedule III, IV, or V controlled substance may authorize no more than 5 refills within 6 months following the date on which the prescription is issued.